



SUMMARY OF 2021 SPOTTED SEATROUT SURVEYS

Jack Isaacs | LWFC Meeting | November 4, 2021

Email and Web Based Survey

- Sent 10,000 random e-mails to licensed residents with saltwater privileges.
- Email survey sent August 18
 - Two Reminders
 - Closed September 23
 - 990 Responses (10.4% of adjusted sample)
- Web survey open to anyone August 24
 - Results through September 23 Analyzed Here
 - 4,228 Responses



Respondents to Both Surveys
Especially Web Survey Respondents

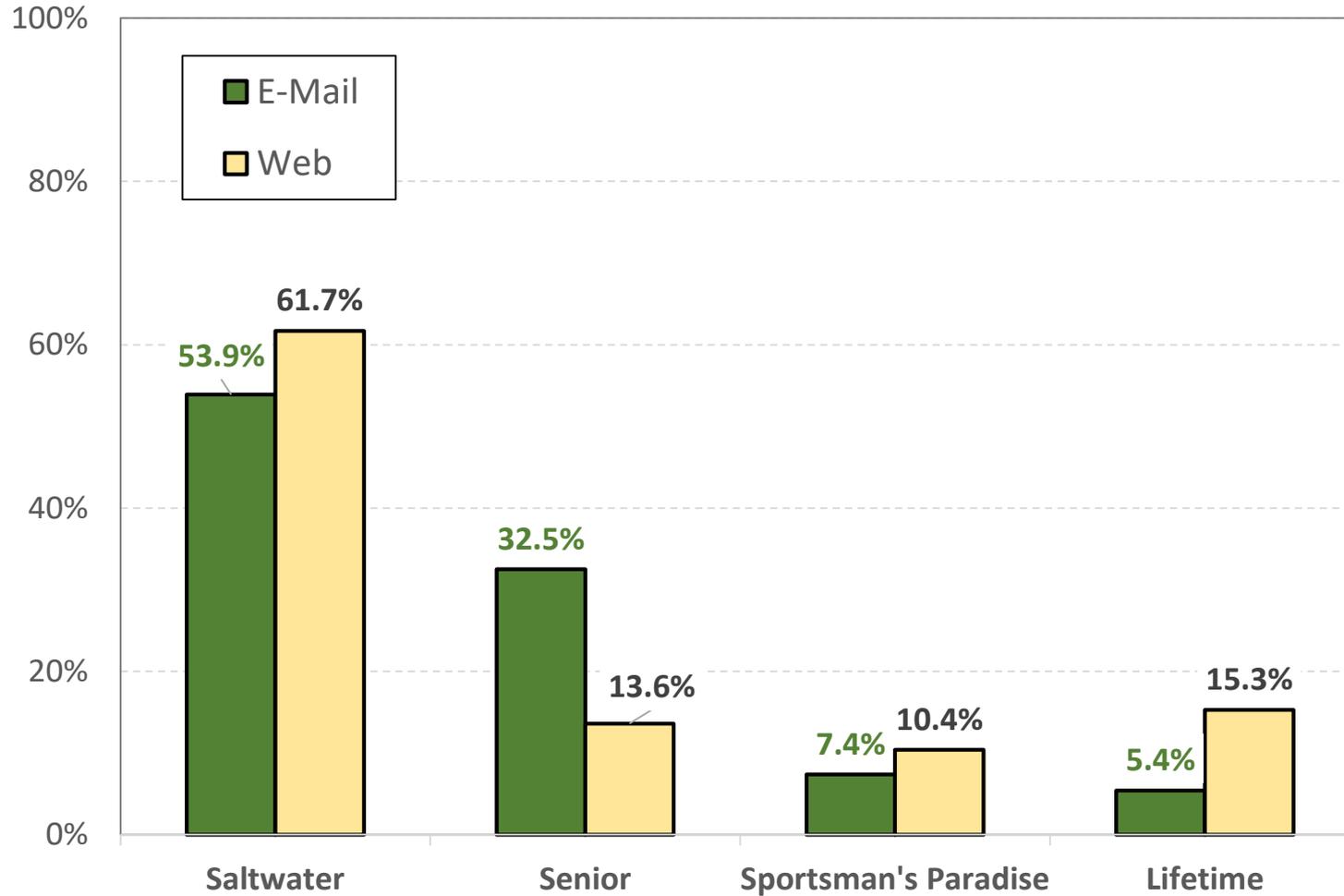
Seem to Be

More Avid

than Most Louisiana Resident Anglers

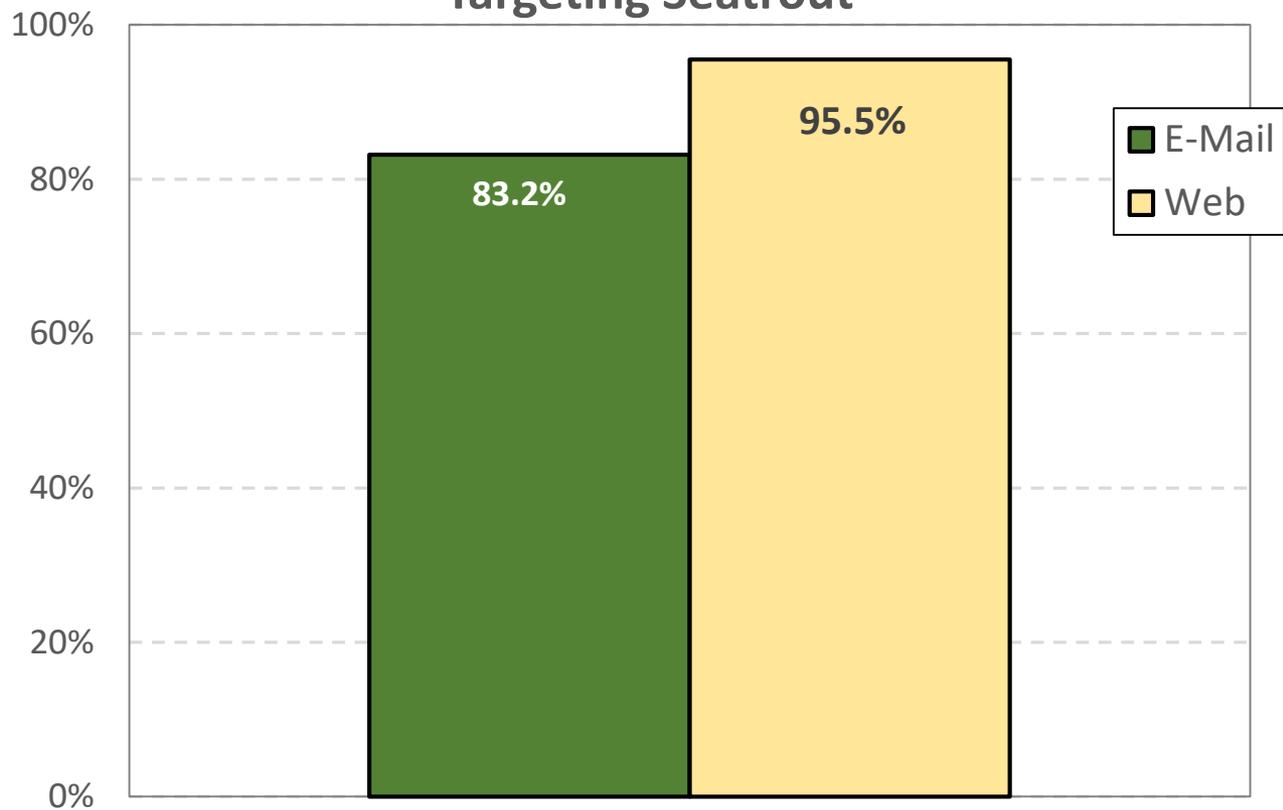


Percentage Who Held the Specified Types of Licenses:

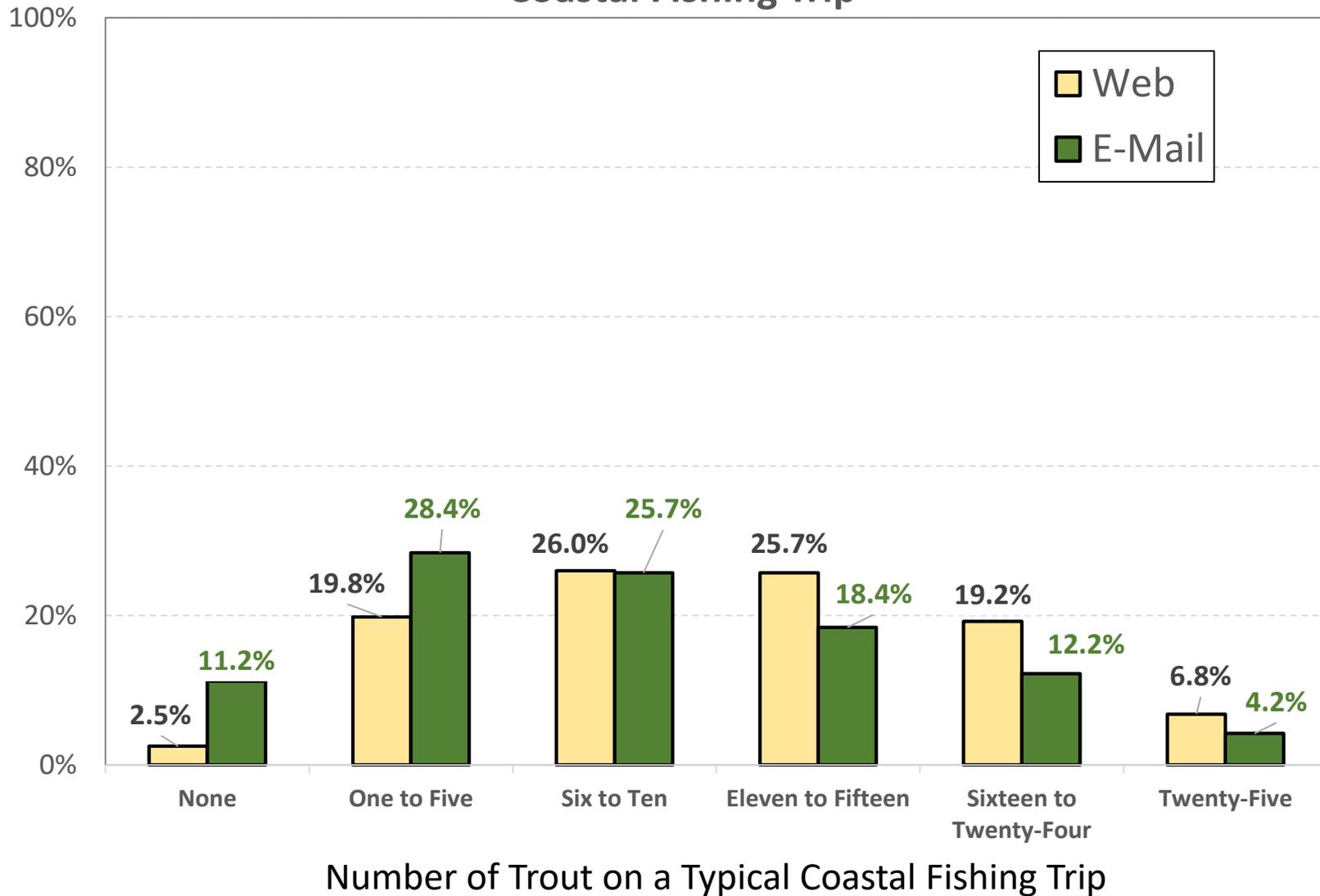


Reported Number of Coastal Fishing Trips		
	E-Mail	Web
Average	15	25.5
Median	10	15

Percentage Who Reported Targeting Seatrout



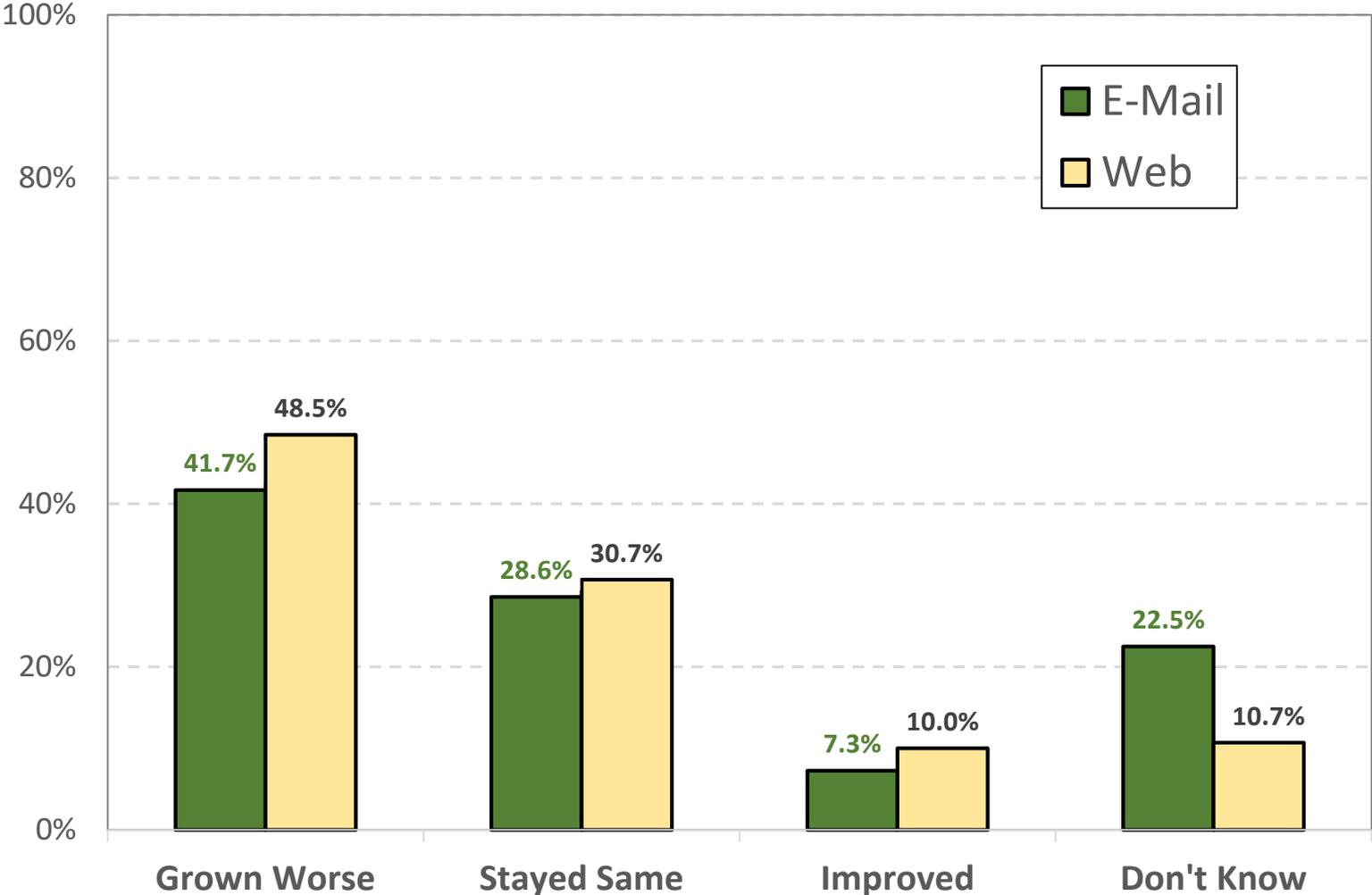
Percentage Who Reported Catching the Specified Number of Seatrout on a Typical Coastal Fishing Trip



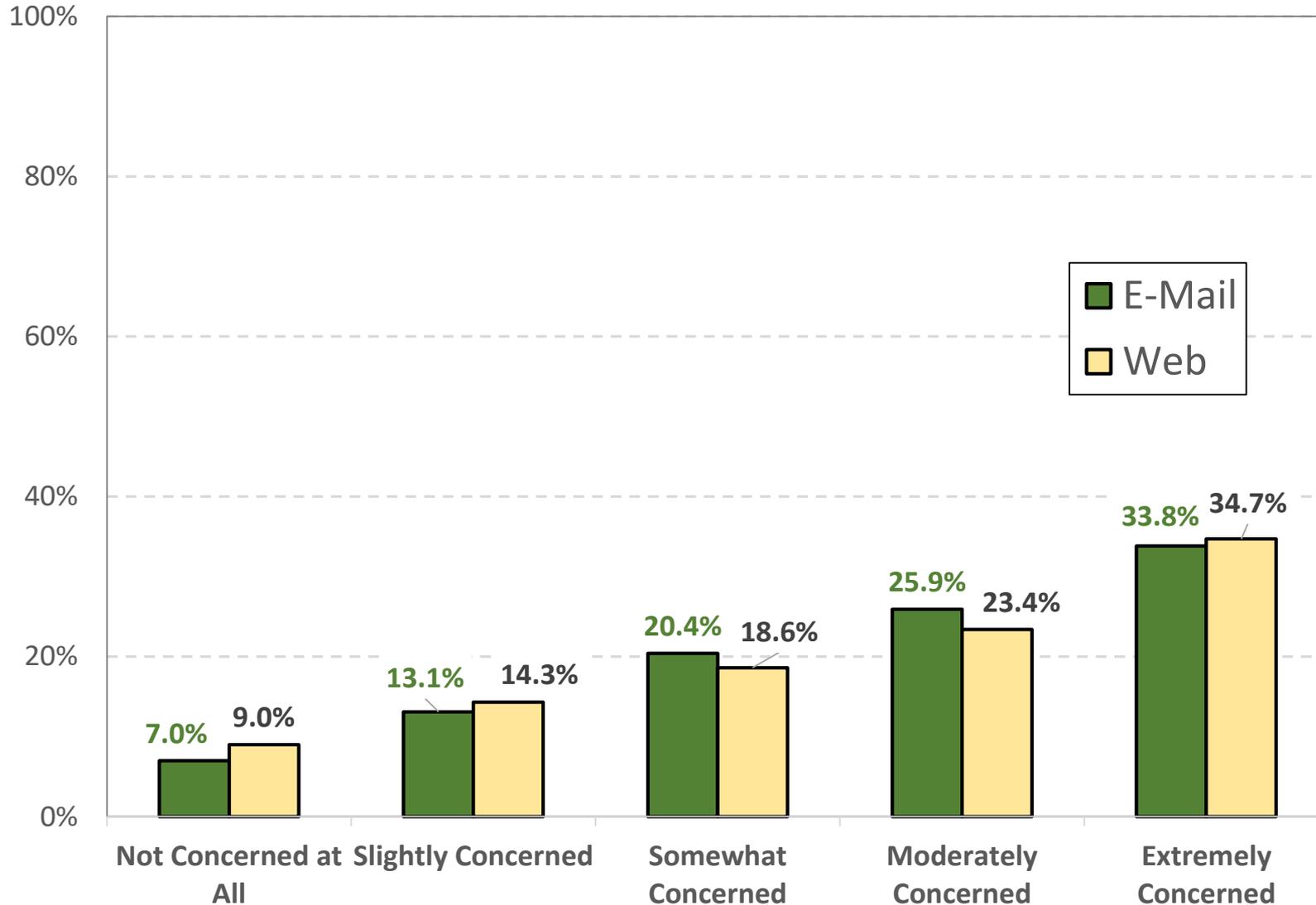
Respondents' Views of Change in Spotted Seatrout Stocks



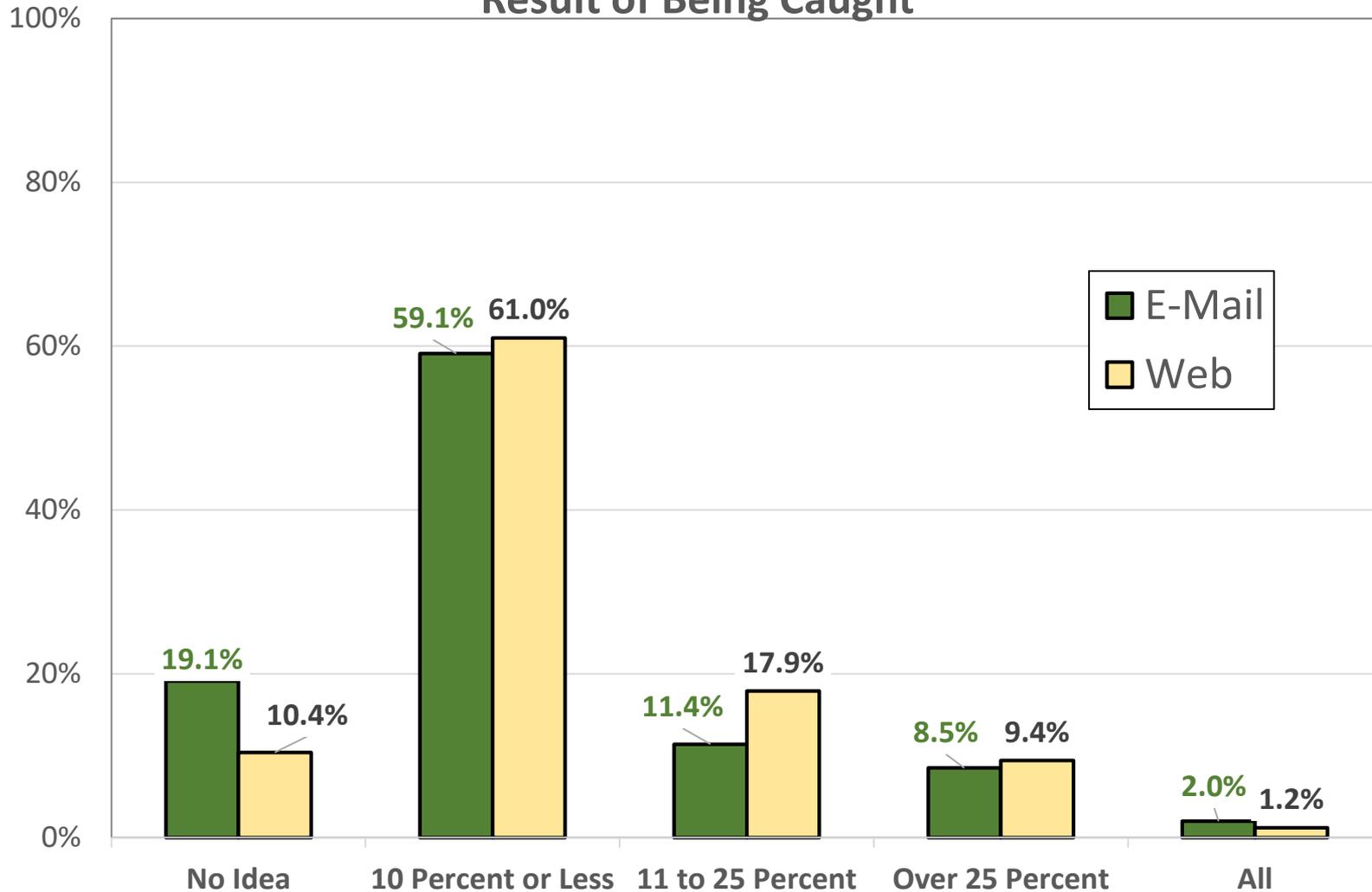
Percentage Who Offered the Following Description of the Change in Spotted Seatrout Fishing in Area They Fished the Most



Percentage Expressing the Specified Level of Concern for Spotted Seatrout



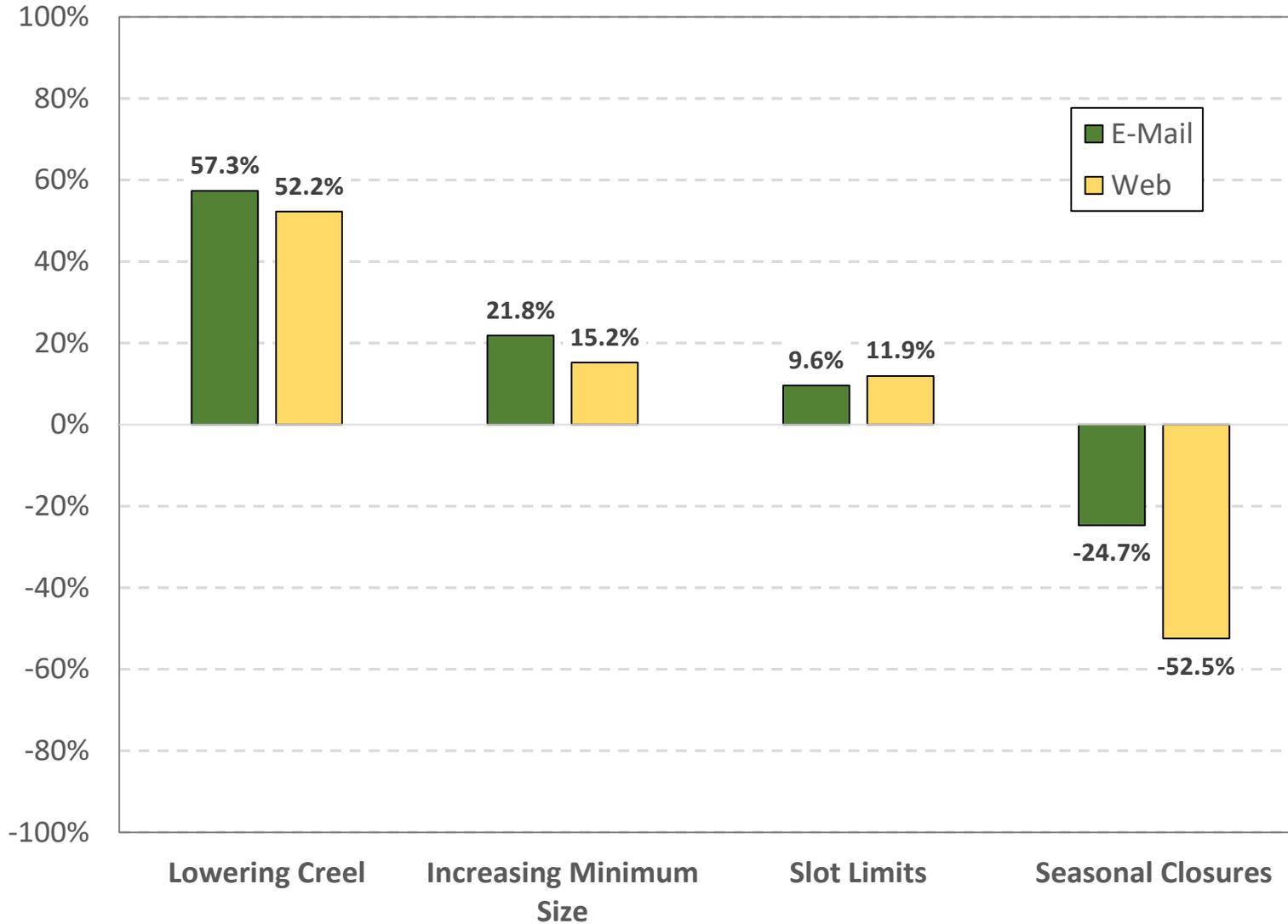
Percentage Who Believed That the Specified Percentage of Released Seatrout Died as a Result of Being Caught



Questions about General Management Preferences

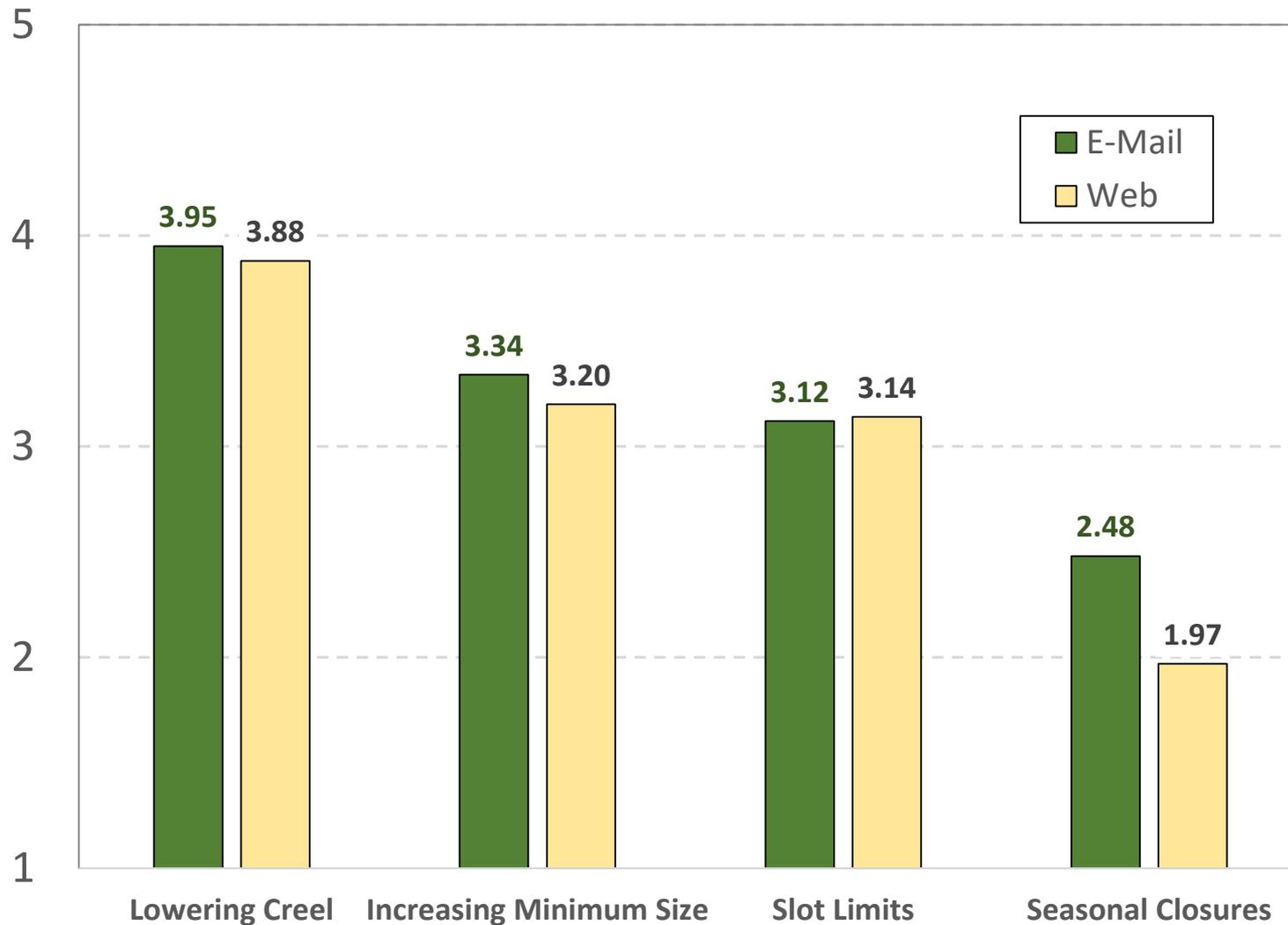


Net Preferences for General Management Options



Net Preference = (Percent Strongly or Slightly Support) – (Percent Strongly or Slightly Oppose)

Weighted Score for General Management Options



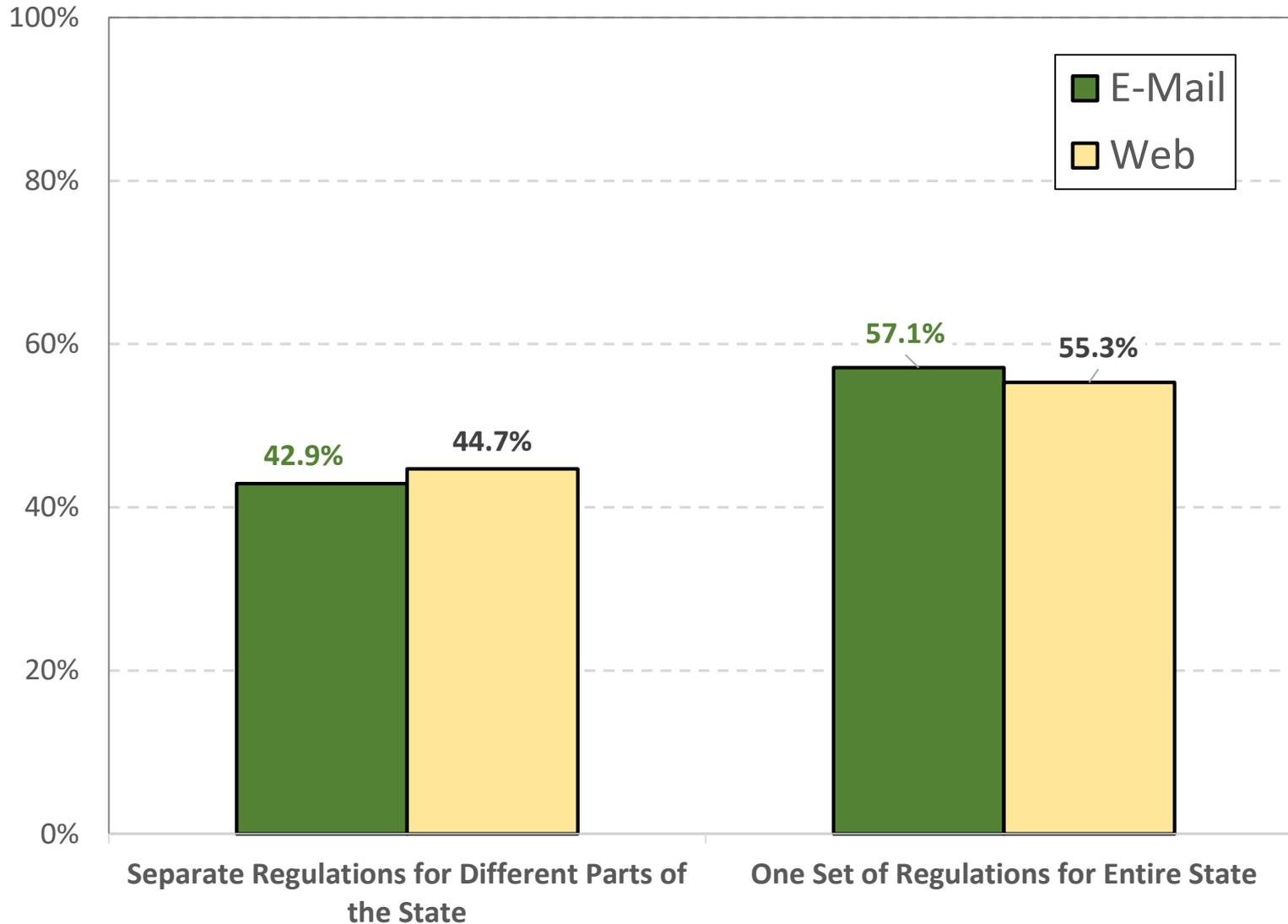
Weighted Score= Average Score on a Scale from One to Five



Respondents' Preferences for
Consistent Statewide
or
Variable Regional
Regulations for Spotted Seatrout



Percentage Preferring Consistent Statewide or Variable Regional Seatrout Regulations



Questions about Specific Management Scenarios

Respondents Rated on a 5-Point Scale

(From “Strongly Oppose” to “Strongly Support”)

Current Seatrout Regulations

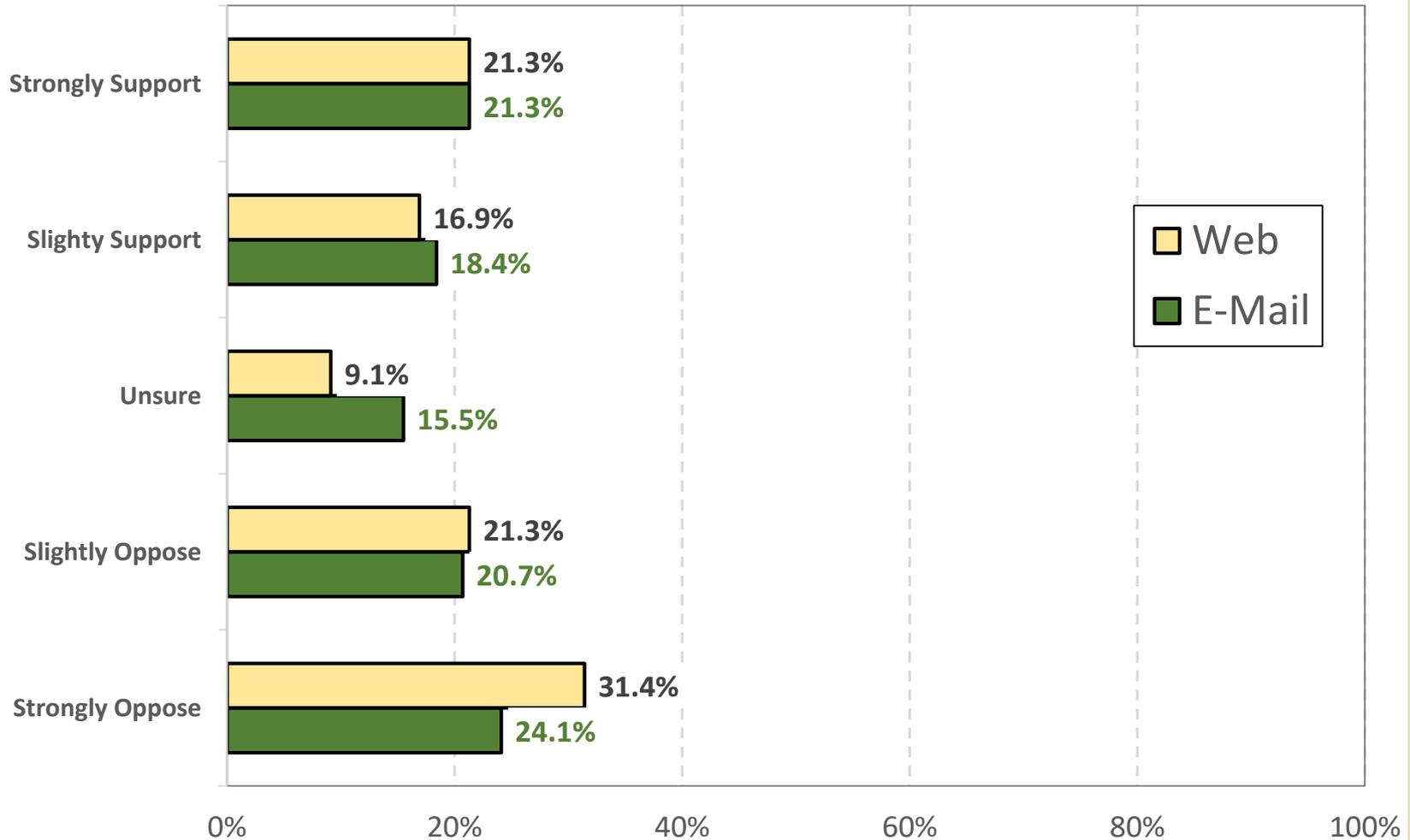
+

Five Alternatives

Intended to Reduce Landings by 20% and Rebuild
the Fishery within Five Years

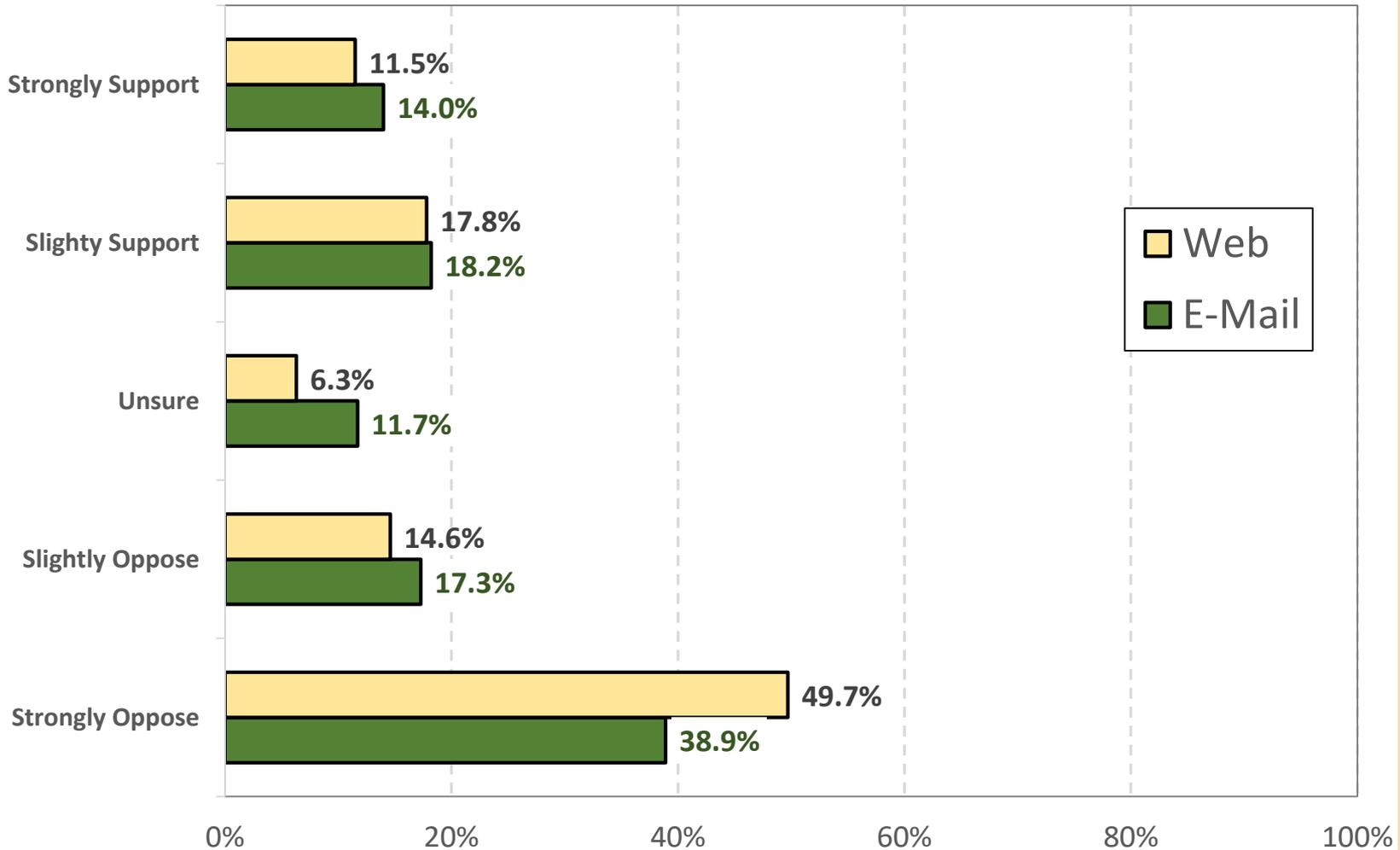
Current Seatrout Regulations

Minimum Size Limit: 12"
Creel Limit: 25 Fish



Creel Change Only Option

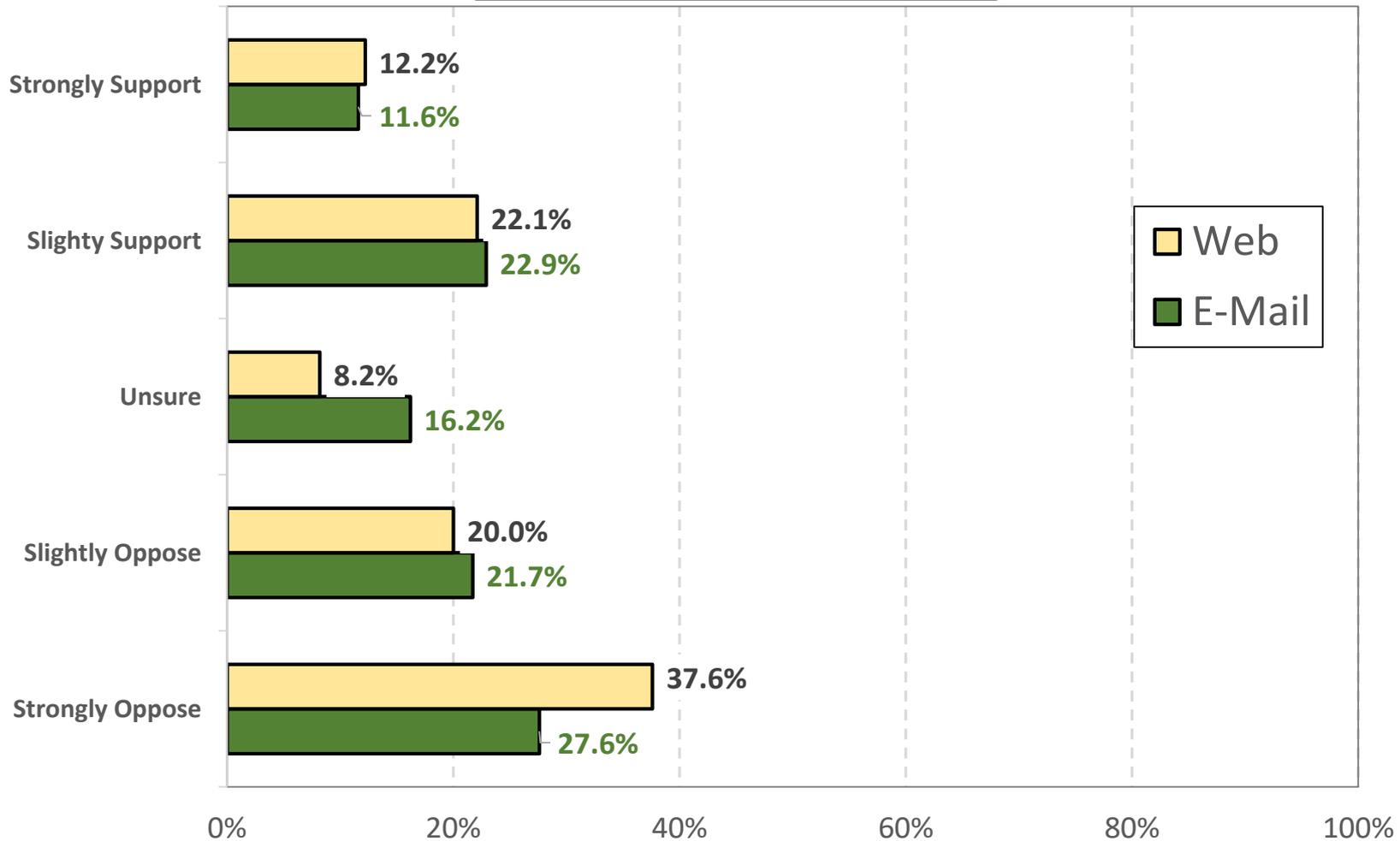
Minimum Size Limit: 12"
Creel Limit: 9 Fish



Size Change Only Option

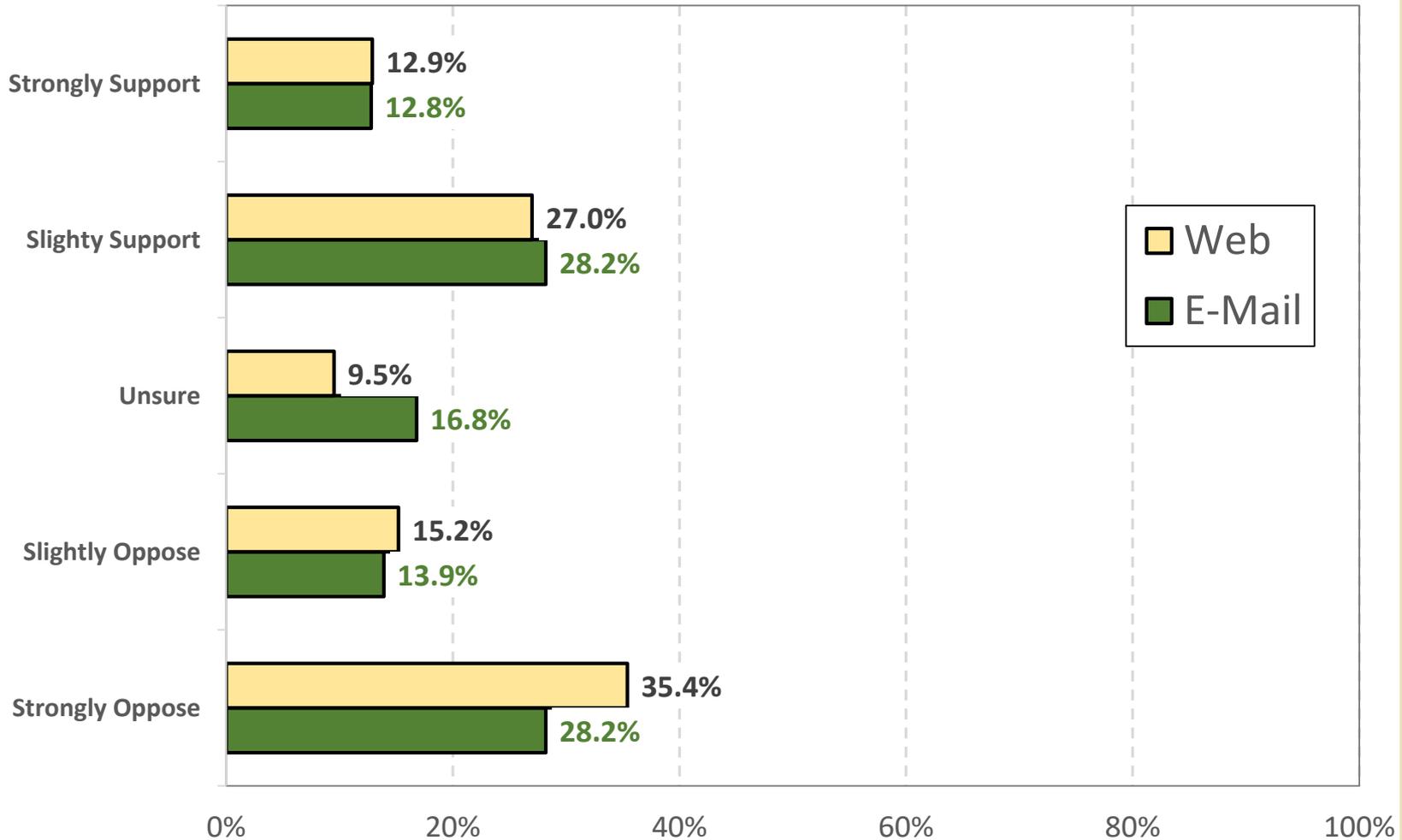
Minimum Size Limit: 14"

Creel Limit: 25 Fish



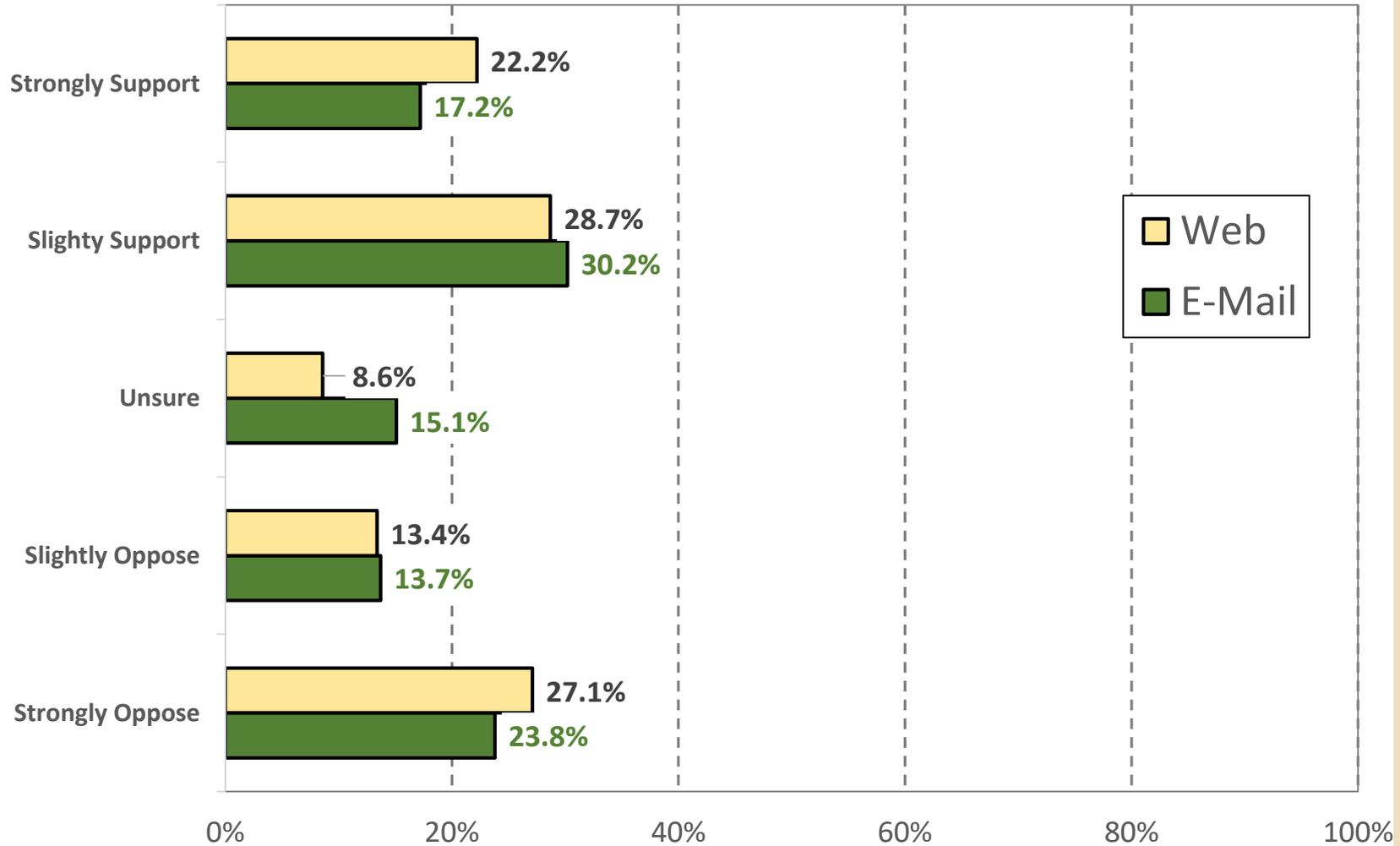
Creel & Size Change I Option

Minimum Size Limit: 13"
Creel Limit: 11 Fish



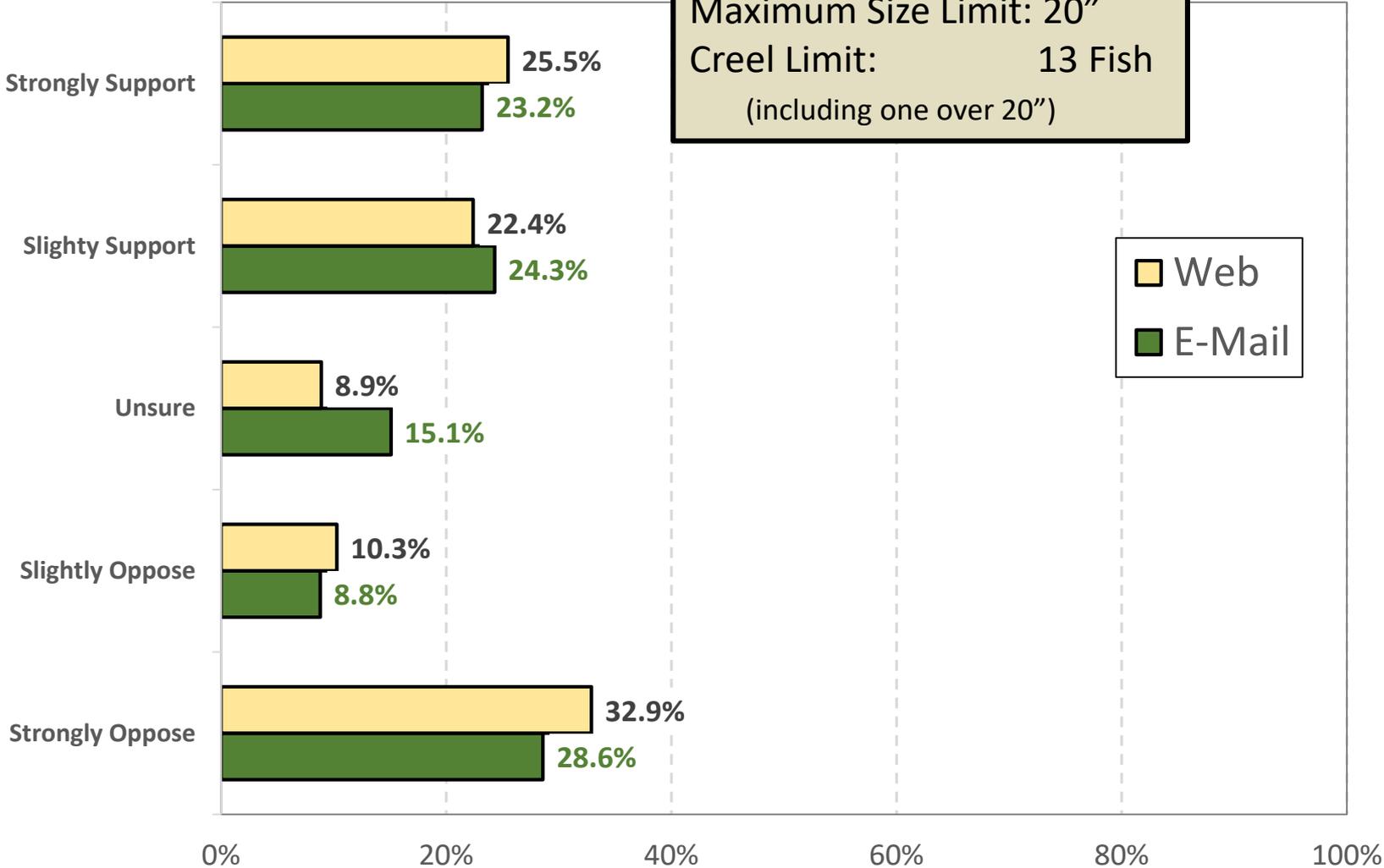
Creel and Size Change II Option

Minimum Size Limit: 13.5"
Creel Limit: 15 Fish



Slot Option

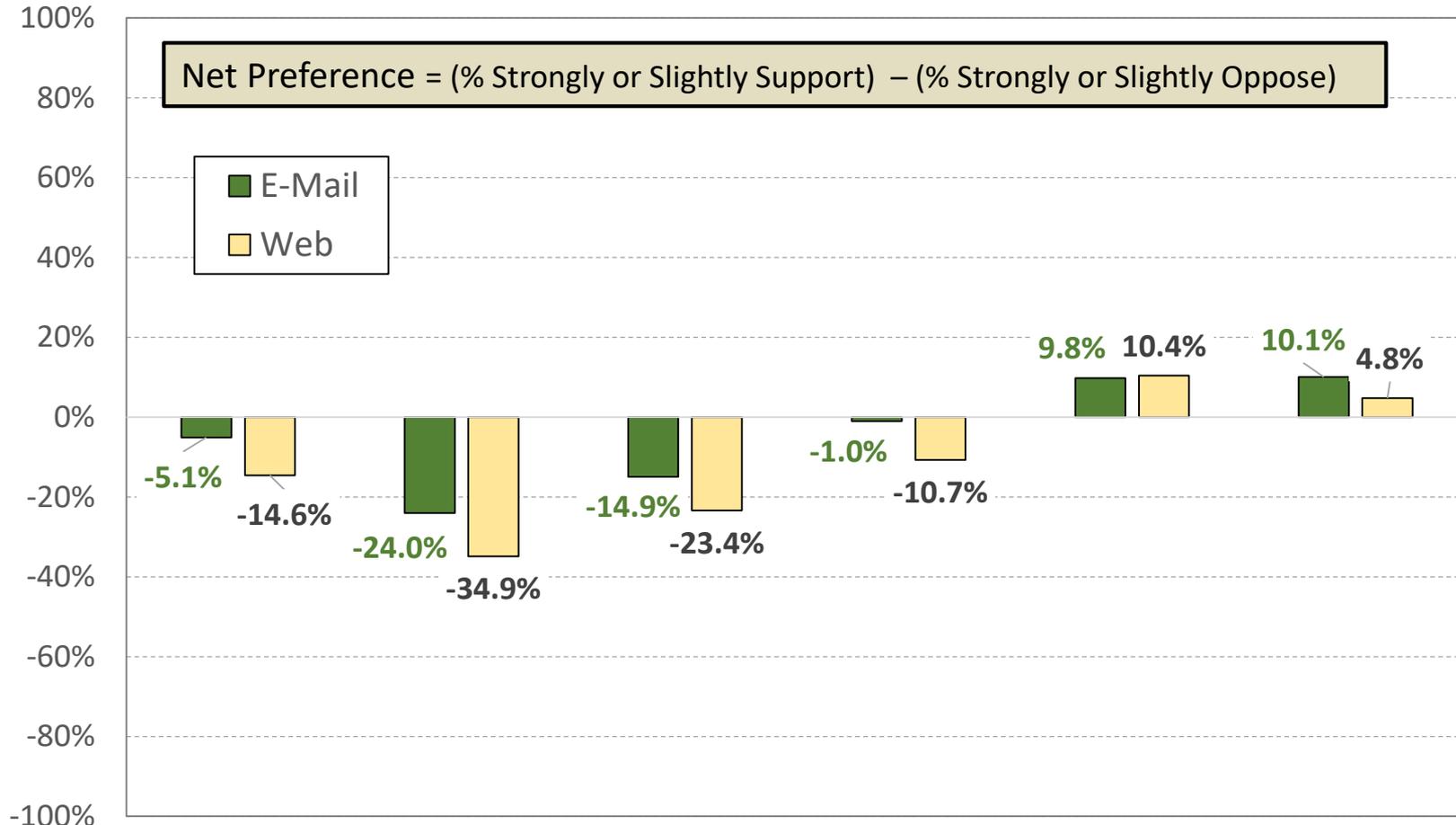
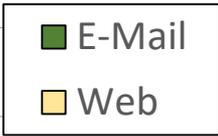
Minimum Size Limit: 13"
Maximum Size Limit: 20"
Creel Limit: 13 Fish
(including one over 20")



SUMMARY:

Net Preferences for Specific Management Options

Net Preference = (% Strongly or Slightly Support) – (% Strongly or Slightly Oppose)



Current Regulations

12"
25 Fish

Creel Change Only

12"
9 Fish

Size Change Only

14"
25 Fish

Creel & Size Change I

13"
11 Fish

Creel & Size Change II

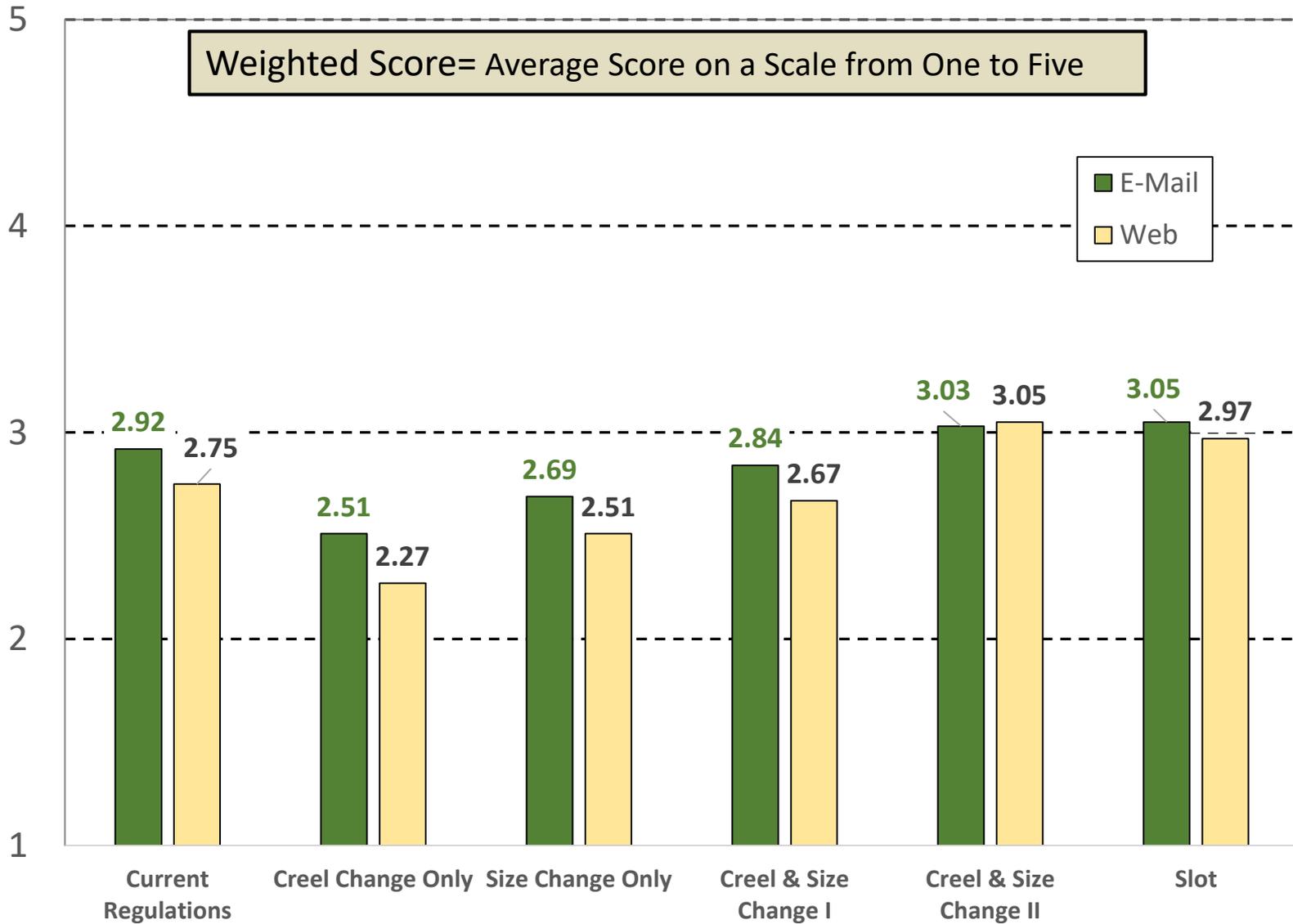
13.5"
15 Fish

Slot

13"-20"
13 Fish



Weighted Score for Specific Management Options



SUMMARY

Respondents to Both Surveys Gave *Relatively High Ratings* to Two Options with a 20% Harvest Reduction & Five-Year Rebuilding Goal with
Mid-Range Decreases in Creels
AND
Increases in Minimum Size Limits

- 15 Fish Creel - 13½" Minimum
- 13 Fish Creel – 13-20" Slot (with 1 over 20")

at the Time of the Survey

- Both Options Were More Highly Rated than Current Regulations
- Large Percentages of Respondents Remained UNSURE about Both
 - Especially in the E-Mail Survey



Thank You !

- Dr. Rex Caffey – LSU Ag Center and Sea Grant Program
- Jason Adriance – LDWF
- Dr. Maryam Tabarestani – LDWF
- Chris Schieble-LDWF
- Harry Blanchet – LDWF
- Christian Winslow – LDWF
- Rebecca Hildebrandt - LDWF
- Dr. Steve Midway – LSU Department of Oceanography and Coastal Sciences
- David Smith – Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- Jason Froeba – LDWF
- Patrick Banks - LDWF



Questions

Jack Isaacs
Economist 4B
(225)-765-2605
jisaacs@wlf.la.gov

